

of the Office Action that equates a suspension of the RICE BRAN CERAMIC, as claimed, with the prior art suspension of RICE BRAN (non-ceramic) as taught by the '757 patent.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by JP 03-060,389. Claims 2-3 are rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over JP '389. Applicant traverses the rejections to the extent that they can be maintained. Specifically, Applicant traverses that portion of the Office Action that equates a suspension of RICE BRAN CERAMIC, as claimed, with a suspension of RICE BRAN taught by the '389 patent.

The lubricant composition of claim 1 comprises a suspension of RBC (RICE BRAN CERAMIC) powder in a liquid resin. Japanese patent 11-207,757 [0006-0013] discloses RICE BRAN mixed in a thermoset resin. The suspension of the prior art contains no ceramic portion. The resultant mixture of rice bran only and a thermoset resin is placed in a mold and cured to form a solid object that is subsequently fired in solid form to prepare a porous RBC member. The ceramic is not formed until the shaped body is molded from the bran and fired. The solid RBC member is arranged in a mold die and treated with a thermoset resin containing non-metallic fiber that is integrated with the porous RBC member to form a composite material. JP '757 does not disclose a suspension of RBC in a liquid resin. It discloses a composite material of an RBC member infused with a thermoset resin containing non-metallic fiber. Applicant respectfully submits that neither RICE BRAN in a thermoset resin nor a porous RBC object infused with thermoset resin anticipate Applicant's claim 1 that recites RICE BRAN CERAMIC in a thermoset resin.

Japanese patent 03-060,389 also discloses RICE BRAN (not ceramic) dispersed in a thermoset resin along with water or glue to form a bread-like dough (Abstract and claims). The dough is shaped in a molding die and fired to form an RBC object. JP '389 provides no teaching of RBC suspended in a liquid resin. Applicant respectfully submits that RICE BRAN in a thermoset resin does not anticipate Applicant's claim 1 that recites RICE BRAN CERAMIC in a thermoset resin.

Although the rice bran/thermoset resin compositions disclosed by JP '757 and JP '389 may arguably be capable of forming a film, the film would comprise a liquid resin and RICE BRAN, and not ceramic in a liquid resin as is claimed.

Applicant respectfully requests Examiner to reconsider the appropriateness of an anticipation rejection in light of these comments. If Examiner wishes further clarification, he is invited to call Applicant's representative at the telephone number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 336-4755

Date: 15 February 2006



Brian H. Batzli
Reg. No. 32,960

